

UALPA Facts

- The UALPA is specifically designed to meet the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in assessing students' language proficiency in comprehension, speaking, listening, reading and writing. NCLB is clear that the main purpose of ELP assessments is to help ensure that ELLs attain proficiency in English and meet the same academic content and student achievement standards as all students are expected to meet. NCLB requires that states have a single statewide system of annual high-quality assessments. Utah has chosen the UALPA as the instrument to measure the academic language proficiency of ELLs under NCLB.
- Results on the UALPA are closely correlated statewide to previous years' results on the IPT. The completed linking study shows comparable percentages of students in comparable levels of the IPT and the UALPA.
- Results on the UALPA are closely correlated statewide to student proficiency on the English Language Arts CRT. Comparisons of each UALPA proficiency level with each CRT proficiency level are very comparable.
- The UALPA2 Cut Score Look-up Table is included with this document. The table can help you make instructional placement decisions for ELLs. All such decisions should be based on scale scores rather than raw scores. Scale scores allow comparison with other students' scores, as well as with previous years' scores on the UALPA.
- The English Language Learner Proficiency Standards were recently approved by the Utah State Board of Education. Those standards define each proficiency level obtained through UALPA. Please note that there are two exit criteria: the student is identified at the A level on the UALPA and is proficient on the ELA CRT at their grade level. If the student is in K or 1 the second criterion is your district literacy assessment for students in those grades (e.g. Dibels, DRA.) Final determination to exit an ELL student from services is left to the District.
- The UALPA is still an instrument in development. Improvements will continue to be made. We have and will continue to respond to your concerns. However, the instrument can be used for its intended purpose at this time.
- The UALPA is the SEA determined assessment for Utah. If you choose not to participate in the UALPA please notify the USOE so that Title III funding is not dispersed to your district